

**COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS**

Mariam Mokri  
Chair

Office 612 673.3012  
Fax 612 673.2599  
TTY 612 673.2157

June 6, 2016

To: Ed Graff, Superintendent, Minneapolis Public Schools  
The Honorable Betsy Hodges, Mayor, City of Minneapolis  
Minneapolis City Council Members  
Principals, 9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade Coordinators,  
Teachers, Social Studies Faculty, Art Faculty  
Minneapolis Home, Alternative, Charter and Private Schools  
Public Relations and Communications Departments, Minneapolis Public Schools

Re: 2017 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In Mixed Media Contest:

The Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights, the Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights, Minneapolis City Council, and Mayor Betsy Hodges are pleased to present the 2016 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Mixed Media Contest. This contest is open to all Minneapolis students in grades 9-12.

Students are asked to submit an original piece addressing this year's topic.



[www.minneapolismn.gov/civilrights](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/civilrights)  
Affirmative Action Employer

The Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and '60s was a struggle to achieve legal equality for African-Americans, and other disenfranchised people. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. believed that equality and freedom for all people would come from the power of words and nonviolent resistance. He believed that through peaceful acts of resolving differences, we could create a country in which all men and women are part of a single human family working together to help one another, regardless of race. He led Civil Rights activists in peaceful protests, grassroots coalitions, and civil disobedience. Through these techniques, he was able to show the suffering of African-Americans in the United States and change the hearts and minds of the country's leaders.

**The theme/topic for this year's contest is:** Civil Rights Today

Through art, writing, or mixed media show how your generation can continue the work for a future where access, opportunity, and justice are equal for everyone.

#### **RULES**

- 1.) The contest is open to all Minneapolis High School Students, and students living in Minneapolis in grades 9-12.
- 2.) Students are asked to submit either a visual art piece, writing, or mixed media entry that addresses the contest theme listed above.
- 3.) All entries must be accompanied by the official entry form and received by November 28th
- 4.) A panel composed of Minneapolis Civil Rights Commissioners as well as community members and local artists will review all entries.
- 5.) Entries will be judged on the basis of originality, creativity, and content.
- 6.) All entries will be judged anonymously.

**Completed entry forms with parent's signature must be attached to the back of the submission.** All submissions are due by November 28th

Teachers can request a member of the Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights to visit their classroom and to assist students with the submission topic. To request a visit, please contact the commissioner listed at the bottom of this letter.

#### **CATEGORIES**

##### **VISUAL ART**

Entrants in the Art Category are free to use any medium (ink, paint, pencil, crayon, clay etc.). All submitted work must: (1) Have dimensions of no larger than 12 inches by 18 inches, (2) not be computer-generated artwork. In order to have their work accepted for judging, students must type or hand write a brief statement (on a separate sheet of paper) explaining their piece.

##### **WRITING**

All entrants in the Writing Category must submit one original piece, no more than 2 pages words, focused on the contest theme. Entries must be typed or hand written, but must be legible. Illegible submissions will be disqualified.

##### **MIXED MEDIA**

All entrants in the Mixed Media Category must submit one piece consisting of an original song, skit, video, spoken word, photomontage, or other mixed media project. Submissions must not exceed 5 minutes in total length and can be submitted using YouTube, PowerPoint, Prezi, or another pre-approved platform. Acceptable audio and video formats are MP3, MP4, Avi, and mov. Electronic files must be accessible in Microsoft Windows.

Additional packets can be found on the Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights website [http://www.minneapolismn.gov/civilrights/commission/civil-rights\\_commission\\_announcements](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/civilrights/commission/civil-rights_commission_announcements)

All contest winners will be notified by January 2017. There will be three winners chosen from each grade level.

**The contest winners will receive a gift card to be awarded at a ceremony before the Minneapolis City Council in the January 2017.**

First Place	\$ 300.00
Second Place	\$ 200.00
Third Place	\$ 100.00

There will be a reception after the award ceremony to honor the winners. Teachers, parents, educators and others are invited to attend. Students will have the opportunity to meet and take pictures with the Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights members, Minneapolis City Council members and Mayor Hodges. Interviews may be requested by the media.

**Completed submissions should be sent in no later than November 28th:**

Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights  
Attention: Christian Taylor, MCCR Liaison  
350 South 5th Street, Room 239  
Minneapolis, MN 55415  
[christian.taylor@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:christian.taylor@minneapolismn.gov)

Your participation in this event is appreciated. Please feel to contact us directly with any questions or concerns at [aaroncorfield@gmail.com](mailto:aaroncorfield@gmail.com) and/ or [Bernadette.Casey@hennepin.us](mailto:Bernadette.Casey@hennepin.us).

Sincerely,  
Aaron Corfield and Bernadette Casey PR& E Co-Chairs